The kyphoplasty in the treatment of tumor disease of the spine

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES
Vertebral fractures in oncology patients cause significant pain and disability, with decreased quality of life. The aim of the study is to assess the efficacy and safety of kyphoplasty in this type of vertebral fracture in the acute phase.

MATERIALS /PATIENTS AND METHODS
A retrospective study was conducted on 75 consecutive oncology patients with 122 acute vertebral fractures, who underwent bilateral balloon kyphoplasty, with a mean follow up of 11 months.

RESULTS
Almost all (91%) of the patients improved their pain level. The mean improvement in the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) was 4.28 points (preoperative value 7.49 [SD 1.19], postoperative 3.21 [SD 0.95]). Before surgery, 53% of patients needed major opioids (40 cases), and one month after surgery only 12% (9 patients) required them. Quality of life determined by the Karnofsky index improved from 60.2 (SD 10) to 80.7 (SD 12.1). Cement leaks were found in 5.7% (7 cases), all without neurological repercussions. New fractures appeared in 11 patients. This subgroup showed a slight worsening of the initially acquired clinical improvement. No neurological or pulmonary complications related to surgical technique were found.

CONCLUSIONS
Kyphoplasty is an effective and safe for treating vertebral fractures in patients with cancer.

Keywords : Vertebral fractures , oncology patients, kyphoplasty

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